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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 9 without prejudice and amend the claims as rewritten below. Appendix I is attached hereto having marked versions of said claims with amendments indicated by brackets and underlining.

1. (Amended) Method for mechanical joining of stacked plate-shaped objects comprising punch riveting with semitubular rivet using tools situated above and below the objects whereby the semitubular rivet penetrates linearly into the objects, wherein during axial feeding movement of the semitubular rivet the upper tool and/or a portion of the lower tool are given a wobbling additional movement in radial and/or tangential direction.

2. (Amended) Method of Claim 1 wherein the rivet has a head having a convex elevation and a shank having an inner contour and an outer contour which are shaped with a continuous increase of the cross-sectional area of the shank from a foot of the rivet to a head of the rivet.

3. (Amended) Method of Claim 1 or 2, wherein the wobbling additional movement comprises synchronized, simultaneous wobbling additional movement of the upper tool and a portion of the lower tool.

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4. (Amended) Method of Claim 1 or 2, wherein the wobbling additional movement is carried out with a wobbling angle of from 1° to 10°.

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5. (Amended) Apparatus for mechanical joining of stacked plate-shaped objects by punch riveting with semitubular rivet whereby the semitubular rivet penetrates linearly into the object, comprising an upper tool, a lower tool, a die fixed in axial direction and a feeding device for the rivet, wherein the upper tool and/or a portion of the lower tool is supported to permit a wobbling movement in radial and/or tangential directions to be imparted thereto.

6. (Amended) Apparatus of Claim 5, wherein the die is a split die.

A7 (cont)

7. (Amended) Apparatus of Claim 5, wherein no portion of the lower tool is supported to permit wobbling motion to be imparted thereto and a portion of the lower tool and the die are integral.

8. (Amended) Semitubular rivet for for use in a method for mechanical joining of stacked plate-shaped objects by punch riveting with the rivet using tools situated above and below the objects whereby the rivet penetrates linearly into the objects and wherein during axial feeding movement of the rivet the upper tool and/or a portion of the lower tool are given a wobbling additional movement in

radial and/or tangential direction, the rivet comprising a head having a convex elevation and a shank having an inner contour and an outer contour which are shaped with a continuous increase of the cross-sectional area of the shank from a foot of the rivet to a head of the rivet.

A7 (cont'd)

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10. (Amended) Semitubular rivet of Claim 8, wherein the inner contour and the outer contour each comprise a tractrix curve and wherein the starting points of the curves are located in direction of the rivet foot and the transfer of the curves in the center is shaped tangentially.

A8

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the abstract with the substitute abstract submitted on the following separate page.